

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Lapus hails corporate support for techvoc schools

Department of Education (DepEd) Secretary Jesli Lapus cites the Memorandum of Agreement signing between DepEd and Philip Morris as “an expression of the growing cooperation between the public and private sectors.” The agreement between DepEd and Philip Morris Philippine Manufacturing Inc. (PMPMI) – through its affiliate, Philippine Band of Mercy (PBM) was formalized recently at the DepEd Central Office, Pasig City.

Together with the Education Chief, present in the MOA-signing are the Managing Director of PMPMI Christopher Nelson, President of PBM Jesus Cardenas, and selected officials from DepEd, PMPMI and PBM.

According to DepEd Secretary Jesli Lapus, “this event is an indicator that more and more private organizations are willing to contribute a share of their resources to augment the budgetary resources in the basic education sector.”

PMPMI and PBM will support the initiative of DepEd to strengthen technical-vocational education by donating three units of Toyota Corolla 1.6 GLI in the automotive servicing workshops of three techvoc high schools.

The school beneficiaries are Butuan City School of Arts and Trades in Butuan City, Antique Vocational School in Bugasong, Antique, and Roxas City School for Philippines Craftsman in Lanot, Roxas City.

“This support of Philip Morris to DepEd’s techvoc efforts will bring the much-needed equipment to our techvoc schools,” said Lapus. “This partnership, which is a concrete manifestation of Corporate Social Responsibility, will further encourage our other corporate stakeholders to intensify their support for this program that will benefit our schools.”

Lapus has initiated the Strengthened Technical Vocational Education Program. STVEP is geared towards solving the mismatch between the number of unemployed graduates and the millions of job opportunities here and abroad by encouraging learners to pursue technical courses with employment value.

“Ultimately, our goal in strengthening our techvoc schools is that we want to produce graduates with lifelong skills that they can use to be productive members of society,” said Lapus. “Techvoc education – or skills-based education – will open doors to higher learning, world of work, and even entrepreneurship,” he added.

Republic Act 8525 established DepEd’s Adopt-a-School Program. It seeks to encourage private groups, companies, and organizations to assist in the delivery of education services to public schools, with emphasis on poverty-stricken areas.

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